



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 14, 2017

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

**ACCEPTED/FILED**

DEC 14 2017

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

Re: PS Docket 15-94

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau staff are submitting the attached ex parte filing by William J. Johnson, Esq., CAE, Executive Director, National Association of Police Organizations into above-referenced docket of this proceeding pursuant to section 1.1204(a)(10) of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §1.1204(a)(10).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gregory M. Cooke  
Deputy Chief  
Policy and Licensing Division  
Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau

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FCC Open Commission Meeting  
December 14, 2017

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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

### New Emergency Alert System Event Code for Blue Alerts

Remarks for the record by William Johnson, NAPO Executive Director

NAPO – the National Association of Police Organizations – strongly supported the Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu National Blue Alert Act, which was named after New York City Police Department Officers and NAPO members Ramos and Liu, who were assassinated while sitting in their police cruiser on December 20, 2014. Their killer posted threats to law enforcement on social media before the attack. A fully operational National Blue Alert Network will be a vital tool to help ensure information on credible threats, like that posted by the individual who killed Officers Ramos and Liu, is quickly and widely disseminated so that officers have advance warning, and can apprehend the criminal before he or she can do more harm.

According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, on average, one law enforcement officer is killed in the line of duty somewhere in the United States every 58 hours. 138 officers were killed in the line of duty last year, 63 of whom were shot and killed. 21 of those gun-related deaths were by ambush – like Officers Ramos and Liu, the officers were targeted and killed simply because of the uniform they wore. This was a 167% increase in ambush-style killings of law enforcement officers over the previous year. In many of these cases, the individuals posted imminent and credible threats to law enforcement officers on social media. A functioning National Blue Alert Network may have prevented some of these unnecessary deaths.

The National Blue Alert Network allows the federal government to support state and local law enforcement as they work to develop and implement Blue Alert emergency systems in their states. It also supports the 27 states that currently have Blue Alert systems to integrate into a coordinated national framework.

NAPO strongly believes that a dedicated Emergency Alert System event code for Blue Alerts would facilitate and streamline the adoption of new Blue Alert plans in the remaining 23 states that do not yet have them and will help integrate all Blue Alert systems into the National Blue Alert Network. With the number of law enforcement officer assaults, injuries, and deaths increasing sharply in recent years, a functioning National Blue Alert Network, with all states participating, is vital for the protection of our nation's law enforcement officers.

NAPO hopes that the FCC will vote today to issue a dedicated EAS event code for Blue Alerts to keep our officers and our communities safe from violent criminals who have threatened to kill, have killed or seriously injured a law enforcement officer.